



THE ROYAL TOWN OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

BOROUGH OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1953

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Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department
Council House
Sutton Coldfield

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PREFACE

Public Health Department,
Council House,
Sutton Coldfield.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Royal Town of
Sutton Coldfield.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to submit to you my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1953.

The year has been one of steady progress, particularly in housing. There has been great activity in this direction both in building of Corporation houses and in erection of private houses.

Furthermore, the programme of demolition of sub-standard houses has proceeded steadily, thanks to the allocation of 25 Corporation houses per year by the Council to rehouse persons displaced by housing demolitions.

It is interesting to note that this year a large number of the houses demolished housed elderly people and one of the difficulties met was suitable rehousing.

It is often the case that when old people are to be rehoused in these circumstances, they are offered accommodation in flats or bungalows in some new housing estate miles away from their homes, where in many cases they have lived for years. They have their circle of friends and relatives nearby and have become accustomed and used to their local way of life. In addition, when ill, as they often are, they can get neighbourly help and assistance, and thus avoid calling on the costly services of the local health authority, which already has enough work to do amongst the less fortunate ones. They often, too, have close associations with local church organisations, voluntary clubs, and it seems a great shame that they must be uprooted and pitched into an area and a way of life which is strange to them. The Sutton Coldfield Council have appreciated the difficulties of these old people and are now building groups of old people's ground floor flats and bungalows in selected areas where demolition of houses occupied at present by elderly persons is likely to be undertaken. In this way no disorganisation will be caused in the lives of the old people, who can retain their friends and neighbours and continue to live happily in their usual and accustomed environment.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Infant Mortality Rate of 13.1 is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. It reflects

great credit on all concerned and no doubt will encourage them to further efforts.

Last year I was pleased to report the installation of a piped water supply to Blackroot Cafe. In 1953 the question of further progress in hygiene in the Park was considered and I am glad to report the introduction of a piped water supply to Keepers Pool where there has been catering facilities for years without a piped water supply. In addition, it was decided to eliminate slowly the present undesirable system of catering by stalls in the Park and the Surveyor has been instructed to draw up a scheme for small kiosks with proper water and washing-up facilities.

In connection with Food Hygiene, it was noted that an increasing number of vehicles were being used for the sale of food in the Borough without the names and addresses of the proprietors being shown thereon, and the Council, in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, required as from 1st April, 1953, that such names should be properly displayed.

In regard to Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, I regret to report that few applications of a suitable type were received during the year. There still seems to be hesitancy in this area to undertake improvement in blocks of buildings which might be considered suitable for improvement. This may be due to the better financial return obtainable elsewhere for monies invested, to the complex and unwieldy machinery to obtain a grant, and to the restrictions placed on the owner once he gets a grant. It seems that more encouragement will be necessary to prevent older houses falling into a state incompatible with the present-day standards of fitness.

Once again the question of houses let in lodgings is raised. Some of the larger houses in this town are gradually being divided into accommodation let to separate families and some form of control is needed to ensure that proper facilities, cooking, water supply and sanitation are available and readily accessible to all occupants. I hope that local authorities will be given adequate powers to deal with this widespread problem in the near future.

At the end of the year the Council decided to remove all pig bins from the streets of the Borough. These bins have been a source of complaints of nuisance for years, and although they served a useful purpose, it is good to see the end of them.

The new Visible Index Filing System introduced last year for housing records has proved extremely satisfactory, efficient in operation and has affected considerable saving in time and labour. It is now intended to extend the system to cover all business premises.

I would like to thank the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Impett, and the Staff of the Public Health Department for their excellent work and co-operation during the year.

I also thank the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. K. E. Smith, and the members of the Health Committee for their advice and encouragement.

JAMES R. PRESTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1953

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> : JAMES R. PRESTON, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S.					
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	-	-	-	*†	C. E. IMPETT, M.R.San.I.
<i>Senior Assistant Sanitary Inspector</i>	-	-	-	*††	H. T. MITCHELL, M.R.San.I.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspectors</i>	-	-	-		J. P. MARDEN, A.R.San.I.
				*	H. MEREDITH, A.R.San.I.
<i>Chief Clerk</i>	-	-	-	-	G. W. T. NICHOLLS.
<i>Clerks</i>	-	-	-	-	Mrs. R. E. NICHOLLS.
					Mrs. D. M. WARRILOW.
					Miss M. M. BICKERTON.
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*Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

†Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

‡Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	13,978 acres
Population—Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	29,928
Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	47,590
As estimated by Registrar-General mid-year, 1953	...	...	...	...	48,670
Total number of inhabited houses—					
31st December, 1947	...	...	...	...	13,795
31st December, 1948	...	...	...	...	14,046
31st December, 1949	...	...	...	...	14,257
31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	14,703
31st December, 1951	...	...	...	...	14,929
31st December, 1952	...	...	...	...	15,085
31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	15,669
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	£479,873
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1953–4, £1,938/12/2					

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Municipal Borough and Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield lies in the North-west corner of the County of Warwick. It has an area of 13,978 acres. From the Southern Boundary at Chester Road where it marches with Birmingham to the Watford Gap Northern Boundary is a distance of $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The main road between these two points divides the Borough into approximately two equal parts : the Eastern half is more agricultural and less densely populated, and in the Western half lies the Park, the most important physical feature of the district with its 2,400 acres of woods and moorland set in undulating country with gorse, heather,

streams and pools. The Southern areas and vicinity of the main road are the most densely populated, although with the growth of Falcon Lodge, Walmley and the development in the Hill area, the population is becoming more evenly distributed.

The district is residential and agricultural, and forms a pleasant residential area for persons working in the neighbouring city of Birmingham.

The subsoil varies somewhat but is for the most part sandy and porous with a fairly consistent level of subsoil water, conditions which make for healthy building sites.

There are no occupations in the Borough which would adversely affect the public health, and the number of factories is relatively small.

DISTRICTS OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

The town of Sutton Coldfield with its population of 48,670 is the second largest borough in Warwickshire according to the Registrar-General's quarterly return showing population estimates. The borough is still rapidly growing and expanding in population, housing and amenities.

The town is divided into seven wards as shown below in the estimate of population of the wards at mid-year 1953.

ESTIMATE OF POPULATION OF WARDS AT MID-YEAR 1953

Ward	Houses	Population
TRINITY	1,553	4,856
HILL	2,734	8,548
BOLDMERE (East) ...	1,748	5,465
BOLDMERE (West) ...	3,216	10,056
WYLDE GREEN ...	1,831	5,725
MANEY	1,783	5,575
WALMLEY	2,701	8,445
Totals ...	15,566	48,670

METEOROLOGY

A general survey of the meteorological records for 1953 shows that the weather experienced in the Borough was similar to that during the previous year, there being less hours of sunshine and a lighter rainfall.

Sunshine

The total hours of sunshine during 1953 amounted to 1,308.50 as against 1,488.50 hours in 1952. May was the brightest month with 197.30 hours and the dullerest month of the year was December with only 19.50 hours.

Rainfall

The total rainfall during the year was 20.91 inches as compared with 28.02 inches during 1952. Rainfall was heaviest in April with 2.40 inches and December was the driest month with 0.55 inches.

The heaviest rainfall experienced in one day occurred on the 29th March when 1.15 inches was recorded. During the year rain fell on 135 days.

Temperature

The highest temperature during the year occurred on 27th May when 83° in the shade was recorded. This was 5° lower than the highest temperature for 1952. The lowest temperature of the year was 4° higher than 1952 and occurred on 8th February when 17° was recorded.

The mean temperature of the year was 48.5° this being 1.5° higher than 1952.

The following is a table of meteorological observations taken at the Park Lodge and Council House during the year ended 31st December, 1953, by the Park Forester.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT THE PARK LODGE AND COUNCIL HOUSE
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953, BY THE PARK FORESTER (Mr. T. J. ALLEN)

Lat. : 52 deg. 33 min. 22 sec. N. Long. : 1 deg. 49 min. 42 sec. W.

Height of Rain Gauge above Sea Level, 370.5 feet.

MONTH	RAINFALL			BAROMETER				THERMOMETERS							SUNSHINE		MONTH			
	Total depth in inches	Number of days on which rain fell	Greatest fall in 24 hours	Highest corrected readings		Lowest corrected readings		In Shade			Highest readings in Sun		Lowest readings on grass		Monthly totals					
				Ins.	Date	Ins.	Date	Highest readings	Dgrs.	Date	Lowest readings	Dgrs.	Date	Dgrs.		Date				
JANUARY	1.16	9	.48	30.540	19th	29.500	1/31	56.0	30th	18.0	5th	38.0	38.0	85.0	30th	21.0	5th	28	20	JANUARY
FEBRUARY	1.37	9	.42	30.600	25th	28.500	10th	59.0	28th	17.0	8th	38.5	38.5	98.0	27th	20.0	9th	56	20	FEBRUARY
MARCH	1.55	6	1.15	30.700	10th	29.500	30th	68.0	25/26	20.0	10th	41.0	41.0	112.0	25th	20.0	16th	132	00	MARCH
APRIL	2.40	15	.49	30.170	15/20 21	29.170	27/25	65.0	26th	27.0	4/8	43.0	43.0	117.0	23/24	25.0	4/5	163	10	APRIL
MAY	2.34	11	.88	30.470	4/5	29.570	15/16	83.0	27th	31.0	3rd	55.5	55.5	132.0	27th	20.0	3rd	197	40	MAY
JUNE	2.13	15	.46	30.170	27th	29.620	16th	82.0	2/4	41.0	3rd	59.0	59.0	135.0	6th	38.0	2nd	147	10	JUNE
JULY	2.92	23	.91	30.170	3rd	29.350	15th	77.0	13th	44.0	11th	56.5	56.5	120.0	13th	40.0	11th	168	30	JULY
AUGUST	2.15	12	.41	30.520	7th	29.430	22nd	82.0	7th	44.0	26/27	62.0	62.0	134.0	9th	38.0	19th	167	40	AUGUST
SEPTEMBER	2.03	12	.55	30.320	8th	29.270	21/28	73.0	2nd	45.0	9th	53.5	53.5	124.0	5th	39.0	26/27	113	50	SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	1.17	7	.42	30.420	6th	29.370	27th	67.0	2nd	48.0	31st	46.0	46.0	102.0	5th	26.0	31st	73	10	OCTOBER
NOVEMBER	1.14	8	.40	30.370	17/18 19/20	29.170	3rd	56.0	8th	28.0	5th	45.0	45.0	90.0	1st	25.0	5th	41	10	NOVEMBER
DECEMBER	.55	8	.15	30.470	21st	29.770	5th	56.0	16th	30.0	30th	44.0	44.0	69.0	1st	36.0	26th	19	50	DECEMBER
Totals ...	20.91	135						Mean for the year ...				48.5				Total ...		1,308	50	

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953

						Males	Females	Total
Live Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	404	337	741
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	24
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	416	349	765
Still Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
Deaths								
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	226	240	466
Maternal Mortality								
Deaths from puerperal causes :								
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Special Causes								
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	39	57	96
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	1	1
Infant Mortality								
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
Neo-Natal Deaths								
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953
(continued)

	Comparative Statistics (Where available)	
	Sutton Coldfield	England and Wales
Birth-Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, mid-1953	15.72	15.5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	0.21	0.35
Death-Rate per 1,000 population	9.57	11.4
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	0.10
Other causes	Nil	0.18
Abortion with sepsis	Nil	0.06
Abortion without sepsis	Nil	0.04
Death-Rate of Infants under 1 year of age		
All infants per 1,000 live births	13.1	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	12.15	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	41.7	—
Death-Rate per 1,000 estimated population		
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	0.06	} 0.20
non-pulmonary	0.04	
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01
Cancer	1.97	—
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	—
Influenza	0.08	0.16
Pneumonia	0.37	0.55
Enteritis (under 2 years) per 1,000 live births...	0.02	1.1

CAUSES OF DEATH ASSIGNABLE TO THE BOROUGH

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	—	3
2	Tuberculosis, other	2	—	2
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	7	11
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	11	7	18
12	„ „ breast ...	—	15	15
13	„ „ uterus ...	—	3	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	25	49
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	1	3
16	Diabetes	—	3	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	22	51	73
18	Coronary disease, angina	48	23	71
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	5	8
20	Other heart disease	23	35	58
21	Other circulatory disease	9	11	20
22	Influenza	3	1	4
23	Pneumonia	12	6	18
24	Bronchitis	14	4	18
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	5
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	—	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	2	4
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	5	7
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	7	—	7
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	28	45
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	5
34	All other accidents	6	2	8
35	Suicide	1	—	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
	ALL CAUSES	226	240	466

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH

Diseases	MALES							FEMALES												
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	All ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	All ages
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" other ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" lung and bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
" breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
" uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	11	8	24	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	5	12	25
Diabetes ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	8	22	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	11	1	3
Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	18	15	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	29	51
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	12	23
Other heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	13	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	8	2	5
Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	20	35
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	11
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	6
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	5
Congenital malformations ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	4	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	20	1
Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	17	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	28
All other accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	6	—	1	4	3	8	57	66	81	226	4	1	—	3	1	9	55	54	113	240

MORTALITY BY AGE AND SEX

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Death-Rate per 1,000 Population (Estimated R.-G.)</i>
Under 1 year	...	...	6	4	10	.205
1 and under 2	...	...	—	1	1	.020
2 and under 5	...	...	1	—	1	.020
5 and under 15	...	...	4	3	7	.143
15 and under 25	...	...	3	1	4	.082
25 and under 45	...	...	8	9	17	.349
45 and under 65	...	...	57	55	112	2.301
65 and under 75	...	...	66	54	120	2.465
75 and over	...	...	81	113	194	3.986
Total—All Ages	...		226	240	466	9.571

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953. Registrar-General's Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Admin- istrative County
Births	Rates per 1,000		Home Population	
Live births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still births	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	22.4 (a)	24.8 (a)	21.4 (a)	21.0 (a)
Deaths				
All Causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and paratyphoid...	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61(a)
Deaths	Rates per 1,000		Live Births	
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

VITAL STATISTICS—SUTTON COLDFIELD—1861 to 1953

Year			Population	Infant Mortality†	Birth- Rate†	Death- Rate†
1861	...	...	*4,662			
1871	...	...	*5,938			
1881	...	...	*7,737			
1891	...	...	*8,686			
1892	...	...	8,950	131	21.22	13.40
1893	...	...	9,100	131	24.28	15.71
1894	...	...	10,000	90	20.00	11.50
1895	...	...	10,500	114	19.90	11.04
1896	...	...	10,800	123	19.53	13.50
1897	...	...	11,641	103	19.15	11.59
1898	...	...	12,619	91	17.35	11.64
1899	...	...	13,800	96	22.46	12.18
1900	...	...	14,517	93	22.18	11.57
1901	...	...	*14,264	97	23.61	11.87
1902	...	...	15,635	103	24.02	11.79
1903	...	...	16,619	101	21.90	11.97
1904	...	...	17,521	136	20.54	10.44
1905	...	...	18,491	73	19.90	9.19
1906	...	...	19,347	90	20.62	9.71
1907	...	...	20,391	65	19.71	8.97
1908	...	...	20,952	95	17.74	9.50
1909	...	...	21,325	101	17.06	9.61
1910	...	...	21,780	104	18.41	9.91
1911	...	...	*20,132	105	19.37	10.53
1912	...	...	20,600	52	16.87	8.54
1913	...	...	20,919	71	19.41	10.97
1914	...	...	21,437	53	18.24	9.98
1915	...	...	22,513	76	13.85	10.61
1916	...	...	22,513	58	16.24	10.76
1917	...	...	21,475	61	15.22	12.87
1918	...	...	20,685	68	15.74	12.95
1919	...	...	20,853	47	15.74	11.56
1920	...	...	21,684	31.2	20.6	9.3
1921	...	...	*23,028	58.9	17.07	10.02
1922	...	...	23,100	56.55	16.83	10.83
1923	...	...	23,210	79.54	15.16	9.43
1924	...	...	23,570	55.21	13.83	9.75
1925	...	...	23,800	37.46	14.57	9.49
1926	...	...	24,850	51.61	12.47	10.78
1927	...	...	25,540	67.56	14.48	11.19
1928	...	...	26,720	30.58	12.23	10.36
1929	...	...	27,450	43.47	10.89	13.29
1930	...	...	27,450	53.25	12.31	10.20
1931	...	...	*29,928	48.00	12.66	11.01
1932	...	...	30,310	38.46	12.01	10.06
1933	...	...	31,230	28.75	10.02	9.86
1934	...	...	32,070	28.25	11.04	10.25
1935	...	...	33,110	40.72	13.34	9.69
1936	...	...	33,830	34.01	13.04	10.91
1937	...	...	35,050	46.15	12.98	11.50
1938	...	...	36,350	47.62	15.02	9.46
1939	...	...	38,260	28.78	14.45	9.71
1940	...	...	40,630	34.25	14.30	11.96
1941	...	...	42,060	48.21	13.24	11.17
1942	...	...	42,300	40.79	15.65	10.50
1943	...	...	41,610	37.3	16.13	10.98
1944	...	...	42,440	28.81	19.63	11.26
1945	...	...	42,420	35.14	16.10	9.71
1946	...	...	44,460	31.75	17.00	11.25
1947	...	...	45,280	26.00	18.93	11.08
1948	...	...	46,190	25.6	16.09	9.6
1949	...	...	46,580	21.4	14.04	11.1
1950	...	...	47,440	13.8	13.8	10.9
1951	...	...	*47,590	15.4	13.6	11.9
1952	...	...	48,180	21.91	13.3	10.5
1953	...	...	48,670	13.1	15.72	9.57

*Census.

†Per 1,000 of population,

‡Per 1,000 births.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths

From the records available from 1892, or the last 61 years, the death-rate has fluctuated between a maximum of 15.71 per 1,000 population in 1893 and a minimum of 8.54 in 1912. Applying the Registrar-General's comparability factor of 0.94 it is found that the standardised death-rate for Sutton Coldfield in 1953 is 8.999. (The comparability factor for each district is supplied by the Registrar-General and the aim is to even out the differences in age and sex distribution of the population of the various districts. The use of this factor allows us to obtain standardised death-rates which are more fairly comparable and accurate than the crude death-rates.)

Birth-Rate

The birth-rate in 1953 was 15.72 per 1,000 population and is the highest figure registered since 1948.

The highest figure available was that of 1893, namely 24.28 and the lowest in 1929—that of 10.89. The comparability factor was 0.99 and the standardised birth-rate was therefore 15.559 for 1953.

In 1953 the live births exceeded the number of deaths by 299.

Infant Mortality

The Infant Mortality Rate in 1953 was 13.1 per 1,000 live births. This is the lowest figure ever recorded in the Borough. It compares most favourably with the rate of 26.8 for England and Wales.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Laboratories

The Medical Research Council directs the Public Health Laboratory Service. One of the constituent laboratories is the Birmingham Public Health Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Sandiford. This laboratory serves Birmingham and parts of the surrounding areas.

The laboratory undertakes the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases or suspected carriers of infectious disease. It investigates bacterial contamination of food in cases of suspected food poisoning. It also tests water, shell-fish, milk, ice cream and foodstuffs for bacterial content.

Dr. Sandiford comments as follows :

“Through the often tangled skein which makes up the story of an outbreak of infectious disease, and which it is the task of the worker in Preventive Medicine to unravel, runs the thread of infection from case to contact and contact to case. The tracing of it out is often a difficult job, but it can be made simpler if the infective organism can be characterised in any way so as to distinguish it from its fellows of the same species. The characterisation may depend upon bacteriophage typing, serological typing or cultural typing.

“For instance, in the early days of bacteriology ‘Enteric Fever’ included what are now known as typhoid and paratyphoid fevers. Then came the differentiation in the laboratory of the typhoid from the paratyphoid germs and, later, the division of the paratyphoid germs into various cultural and serological species.

“But nowadays, by means of bacteriophage typing, the laboratory can often help in tracing the source of an infection by distinguishing even between strains of the same cultural and serological type, such as between one typhoid germ and another.

“This method of typing is really, in essence, the testing of the disease germ for its susceptibility to various diseases of germs caused by ultramicroscopic viruses, and can be applied to the elucidation of several types of infection besides enteric. In an outbreak of food poisoning a staphylococcus may be found in a suspected article of food and a staphylococcus in the nose of the person who prepared it but, since many people have staphylococcus in their noses we cannot be sure of the significance of the association. If, however, the staphylococcus in the food and nose turn out to be of the same bacteriophage type we have much stronger evidence to go on.

“So it is with other infections, such as diphtheria and dysentery—various methods of characterising or typing the germs concerned help to narrow down the epidemiological field and to enable the boundaries of outbreaks which overlap geographically or temporarily to be more clearly defined.

“Even some of the virus diseases are now yielding to investigation along these lines. Influenza and poliomyelitis, for instance, have been shown to be caused by several strains of the respective virus and research is actively going on into the distribution and epidemiology of the various types.

“So once again we see how research projects which at first acquaintance might appear abstrusely academic yet come to affect the life and well-being of the common man.”

I would like to thank Dr. Sandiford and his staff for their excellent assistance and for the willing manner in which help is given.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance service in the Borough is under the control of Warwickshire County Council.

The Ambulance Centre is at the Ambulance Depot in Boldmere Road. At the end of 1953 there were 18 ambulance staff, and the miles covered during the year were 81,341, an increase of 977 over last year's mileage. The number of patients moved was 13,040, an increase of 276.

Six vehicles (four ambulances and two sitting case cars) are fitted with radio which used correctly is a great benefit in vehicle economy.

Home Nursing

District Nursing and Midwifery Services are under the control of Warwickshire County Council, working through the Area Health Office, Sutton Coldfield.

In 1953 there were eight District Nurse/Midwives and one District Nurse. Owing to the early discharge of cases from hospital the work of this section is increasing steadily. Furthermore, the work amongst the old people is still on the increase. Domiciliary midwifery is on the decrease in all districts except in new housing estate areas.

Clinics and Centres

SCHOOL CLINIC

9 HOLLAND STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD

Monday	-	-	A.M.	AURAL CLINIC (First and third Mondays in month). TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC (Second Monday in month). EYE CLINIC (Fourth Monday in month).
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	CONSULTATION CLINIC.
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	EYE CLINIC.
Friday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.

WELFARE CENTRE

49 HOLLAND STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD

Monday	-	-	A.M.	SUN-RAY CLINIC (Winter months only).
			P.M.	CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINIC (Alternate weeks). SOCIAL WELFARE CLINIC (First and third Tuesdays in month).
			P.M.	EXERCISE CLINIC (Children).
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC (Children).
			P.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC (Children).
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	SUN-RAY CLINIC (Winter months only).
			P.M.	EXERCISE CLINIC (Children).
Friday	-	-	P.M.	ANTE- AND POST-NATAL EXERCISE AND HEALTH TALKS CLINIC.

**WELFARE CENTRE
MERE GREEN ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Tuesday - - P.M. CHILD WELFARE, ANTE- AND POST-NATAL
CLINIC (Combined).

**WELFARE CENTRE
BRITWELL HALL, BRITWELL ROAD
BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Wednesday - A.M. ANTE- AND POST-NATAL CLINIC (Alternate weeks).
TODDLER CLINIC (Alternate weeks).
P.M. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

**WELFARE CENTRE
THE GREEN, MINWORTH**

Wednesday - P.M. CHILD WELFARE, ANTE- AND POST-NATAL
CLINIC (Combined) (Alternate weeks).

**WELFARE CENTRE
WALMLEY ROAD, WALMLEY**

Thursday - P.M. CHILD WELFARE, ANTE- AND POST-NATAL
CLINIC (Combined).

**WELFARE CENTRE
BANNERS GATE ROAD, BANNERS GATE**

Tuesday - - P.M. ANTE- AND POST-NATAL EXERCISE AND HEALTH
TALKS CLINIC (Alternate weeks).
Friday - - A.M. ANTE/POST-NATAL AND TODDLER CLINIC
(Alternate weeks).
P.M. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

These services were transferred to the Warwickshire County Council in 1948, the Medical Officer of Health remaining in administrative charge as Area Medical Officer. In this work of Maternity and Child Welfare he is assisted by one full-time and one part-time Medical Officer, and an Area Nursing Officer, who supervises the nursing services in the area.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics

Six ante-natal and post-natal clinic sessions are held in Sutton Coldfield clinics.

The use of these clinics is on the decline owing to the large number of mothers being confined in hospital. In this town in 1953 approximately 77% of confinements took place in institutions. Many of the institutions run their own clinics and this naturally causes a fall in numbers in local authority clinic attendances.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in the Borough during 1953.

Infant Mortality

There were 765 live births in the Borough in 1953 and 10 deaths of infants under a year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 13.1, the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. The rate for England and Wales is 26.8.

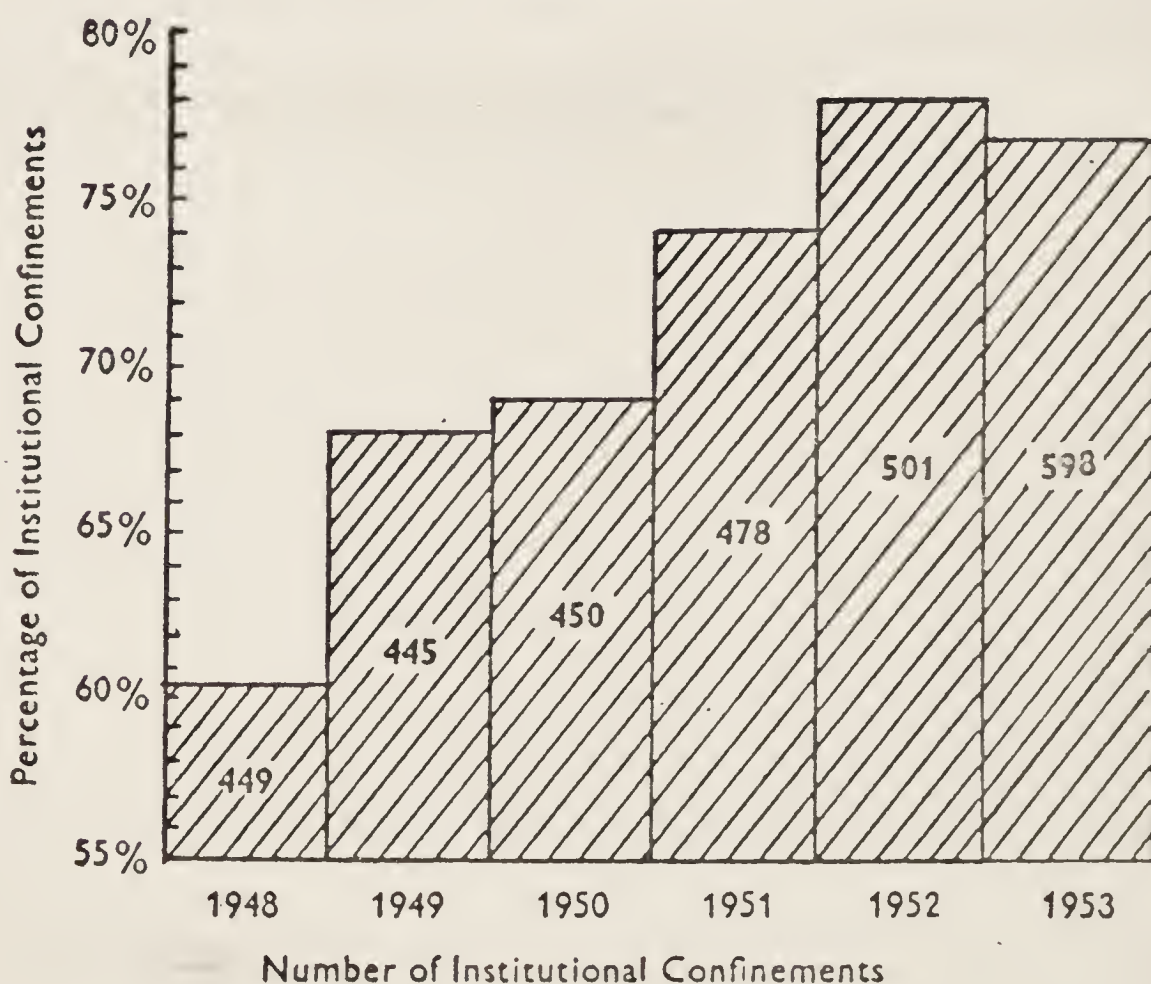
Hospital Accommodation for Maternity Cases

There were 765 live births during 1953.

The Sutton Coldfield Maternity Unit carried the bulk of the institutional confinements with a total of 307. Domiciliary confinements amounted to 177 and Birmingham Hospitals, Maternity Wards and Private Nursing Homes covered the remainder.

Maternity Accommodation Number and Percentage of Institutional Confinements for the Past Six Years

GRAPH No. 1



Cases which for social reasons cannot remain at home are visited by the Local Health Authority midwives and referred where appropriate to the Regional Hospital Board for admission to a maternity ward.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Local Health Authority is responsible for carrying out this and effort is made to ensure that every child under one has been immunised. A boosting dose is offered to all children in their first year at school and also when they attain the age of ten years.

Domestic Health Service

This Service is administered by the Local Health Authority, and therefore, comes under the control of the Warwickshire County Council. Day to day administration of the Service is organized by the Area Health Department.

During 1953 there was a general increase in the amount of work. The policy pursued has been to give as much help to as many cases as possible by limiting the number of hours spent in the household by the Domestic Help. This, of course, involves extra work in organizing, but in my opinion is worthwhile because a larger number of households requiring help can be covered.

It is interesting to see the disposition of the help given. Of the cases helped during the year one-third were classified as Chronic Sick (including aged and infirm). Of the Chronic Sick cases the proportion of cases aged 65 and over who received help outnumbered the under 65s by three to one. In the case of the over 65s having long term help, the greatest proportion had less than four hours help per week. In the Maternity and acute illness cases help provided was mainly for twelve hours or over per week.

The number of hours worked by Domestic Helps per 100,000 population during the year 1953 was 52,034 hours.

The Domestic Help Service is fulfilling a very useful purpose in Sutton Coldfield, and is enabling many old persons to remain at home who would otherwise have to go into hospital.

Day Nurseries

There are no day nurseries in Sutton Coldfield but during the year arrangements were made with Birmingham nurseries to admit suitable children. These facilities however were withdrawn in mid-year when the County Council decided that they could no longer accept financial responsibility for the upkeep of these children in nurseries.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY

There are three systems of water supply in the Borough :—

- (a) The South Staffordshire Waterworks undertaking. (This serves the majority of the populated area of the Borough.)

- (b) The Birmingham City Water Undertaking. (This serves certain areas of the Borough adjacent to the Birmingham City Boundary.)
- (c) Private Supplies. (Spring or well supplies in the outlying and rural areas of the Borough).

Some notes of these three systems are given below :—

(a) Public Water Supplies

(1) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The above undertaking serves approximately 90% of the population of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield.

The Supply to Sutton Coldfield is part of a system which includes five underground sources and a surface source from the River Blithe (Staffordshire) which was made available to Sutton Coldfield district early in 1952. The water at four of the underground sources is sterilised by chlorine and the River Blithe water is treated by rapid gravity filtration in addition to chlorination.

The supply is not softened, and its average total hardness during 1953 was 215 parts per million, with a permanent hardness of 95 parts per million.

All the sources of supply are examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and samples are also examined bacteriologically of the water prior to chlorination.

Of the five underground sources, 268 samples of the water, as pumped to supply, were examined during 1953, six of which contained coliform bacteria. 147 samples of the water prior to chlorination were also examined, and only three contained any coliform bacteria. 310 samples of the treated water from the River Blithe were examined, coliform bacteria being present on five occasions and bact. coli. once. 253 samples of this water prior to treatment gave an approximate average coliform bacteria content of seven per 100 ml.

Regular monthly tap samples are taken at three premises within the Borough. During 1953 a total of 55 such samples were examined, and of these nine contained coliform bacteria and one confirmed bact. coli.

The water is not liable to plumbo solvency and all of 55 tap samples were found to be free from any detectable trace of lead.

Throughout the year checks for residual chlorine were made with satisfactory results.

The chlorination practised at the pumping stations is a precautionary measure.

In cases of possible contamination following burst or damaged pipes, emptying of reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination of the affected fitting or structure is carried out, and special apparatus

and staff are available for the purpose. New mains are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

The quantity of water during the year has been ample for all purposes and the water supplied has maintained a high and consistent standard of purity.

Within the area of supply in the Borough 13,963 houses are supplied direct and 18 by means of outside taps.

Details of the mainlaying carried out in the Borough during 1953 are as follows :

			1½"	3"	4"	6"	9"
Falcon Lodge Estate	...	...	116	183	1,700	397	
Digby Road	...	...		16		3	643
Wylde Green Road	...	...			24	323	
Lindridge Road	...	...			511		
Jervis Crescent	...	...			72		
Halton Road West	...	...			275		
Mere Green Road	...	...				194	
Harcourt Drive	...	...			85		
Butters Lane	...	...			180		
Bedford Road	...	...			157		
Reddicap Heath Road	...	...			4	234	
Fininstall Close	...	...			133		
Grove End	...	...		32	39		
Springfield Road	...	...			32		
			116	231	3,212	1,151	643

Bacteriological

A copy of a report of a sample of the water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service is given below :—

Total Count : Number of colonies developing from 1 ml.
of sample in agar after two days' incubation at 37°C. 2

Coliform Count : Type and number per 100 ml. of sample... Nil

(2) The Birmingham City Water Undertaking.

In the majority, the supply is taken from collecting areas in Wales, and the water is treated by slow or rapid sand filtration followed by chlorination. After chlorination the treated water remains underground until it reaches the consumer. The hardness of the water varies according to the districts supplied and the origin of the supply.

During 1953 the Birmingham Water Undertaking laid the following main extensions :—

New Oscott Area—Bakers Lane ... 98 yds. of 4" main.
 Queslett Road East
 and Linden Road 715 yds. of 4" main.

A copy of a report of a sample of the water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service is given below :—

Total Count : Number of colonies developing from 1 ml.
 of sample in agar after two days' incubation at 37°C. 1

Coliform Count : Type and number per 100 ml. of sample Nil

(b) Private Water Supplies

In the rural parts of the Borough there are 58 houses on small private supplies, i.e., springs and wells. This is a reduction of six on the 1952 figure. Some of this type of supply is being eliminated by the houses concerned making connection to the main supply.

During the year 62 samples were taken from these supplies.

7 were reported definitely unsatisfactory,
4 were suspicious,
24 satisfactory and
27 highly satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main drainage of the town was undertaken in 1887 and runs by way of the valley of Plantsbrook to the Tame and Rea District Drainage Board in an egg-shaped main sewer which is 4ft. 6in. × 3ft. at its outfall at Minworth.

Boldmere was drained in 1900 and here in parts of Jockey Road a depth of 60 feet was attained.

In Jockey Road at the present time, as reported last year, in the event of a severe rain storm, the foul sewer is unable to cope with the demands made on it and causes severe flooding, the flood material being the contents of the foul sewer. This problem is now being tackled.

The main drainage of the Streetly area was completed in the early part of this century, and a sewage lift operates in Streetly Lane owing to the low level of the sewer.

The sewage from the area east of Walmley Road drains to the new sewage disposal works at Langley Farm.

In 1950 sewers were completed in Weeford Road, Queslett Road, Stonehouse Road and in the Park, and a surface water sewer was laid in Bakers Lane.

In 1951 main sewers were laid in Clarence Road, Hillside Road, as part of the Lichfield Road drainage scheme. Sewers were laid in Birmingham Road to prevent localised flooding.

In 1953 the sewers laid were as follows :—

	Surface Water Sewers					Foul Sewers		
	6"	9"	12"	15"	18"	6"	9"	12"
Falcon Lodge. Stage VI	44	584	530	—	117	119	612	67
Sundry Sewer Extensions (Egas Contract)								
Rectory Road ...	—	23	—	—	—	92	—	—
Reddicap Heath Road	—	175	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reddicap Heath Road and Newdigate Road	59	367	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sutton Oak Road ...	—	194	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chester Road North...	—	236	239	73	—	—	—	—
Springfield Road ...	17	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hollyfield Road ...	—	—	—	—	—	110	—	—
Hill Village Road ...	—	—	—	—	—	100	61	—
Rectory Road, Carhampton Road and Lindridge Road	145	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minworth ...	296	541	421	—	—	—	—	—
Estate off Queslett Road E. ...	300	352	—	—	—	256	298	—
Sara Close ...	—	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walter Cobb Drive ...	58	—	—	—	—	20	—	—
Fininstall Close ...	—	97	—	—	—	135	—	—
Chester Road N. near "Parson and Clerk"	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Somerville Estate ...	—	666	—	—	—	—	665	—
Springfield Estate ...	34	235	—	—	—	—	180	—
Totals ...	953	3,736	1,190	73	117	832	1,816	67

298 Corporation houses and 197 private enterprise houses have been connected to the public sewers with the exception of three which had to be drained by cesspools.

HOUSES WITH SUB-STANDARD SANITATION

(a) Not connected to Main Drainage

At the 31st December, 1953, 315 houses were not connected to main drainage, 200 having privy closets, six of this number sharing privy accommodation. 105 houses had a water closet connected to a cesspool and 10 houses were served by a water closet connection to treatment units.

312 of the houses which are not connected to main drainage are situated in the Walmley and Hill Wards.

The Corporation provides a cesspool emptying service on payment by the occupier. Pail closets are not emptied by the Corporation—most of these are situated in rural areas. The contents are emptied by the occupiers, and buried. Cesspools and privy closets are primitive forms of sanitation, and every opportunity should be taken to eliminate them.

The treatment units which have been installed in a number of instances are an improvement in that the effluent is rendered innocuous and only a minimum of maintenance is required to keep the unit in satisfactory order.

(b) Shared Water Closets connected to Main Sewer

174 houses had water closets used in common with another house.

A considerable number of these houses are situated in the central section of the Borough.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

These services are carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department under the direction of the Highways Committee.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal (Combined)

Cwts. collected per 1,000 population per day	...	13.4 cwts.
Tonnage of refuse collected for year and destroyed in Refuse Destructor	...	11,907 tons, 18 cwts.

Street Cleaning and Gulley Cleaning

There are 124 miles of roads in the Borough. The method of street cleaning includes the use of street orderly carts and the "Lewin" mechanical road sweeper.

Gulley emptying is carried out by means of two Shelvoke and Drury gulley emptiers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers in the Borough, but a number of streams are subjected to supervision from time to time.

The main stream, which runs under the Parade and through the central part of the Town, caused complaint from contamination by oil.

However, by introducing oil traps and diversion of the sewer, the difficulties have been overcome and no further complaints received.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Sanitary Inspectorate consists of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, one Senior Assistant and two additional Sanitary Inspectors.

The work of this section is increasing ; systematic housing inspection and special inspection in relation to sub-standard houses is taking up a considerable amount of time, and if work of a preventive nature is to be done, especially in connection with food hygiene, it may be that the staff will require to be supplemented.

It is not enough to say that all complaints are being dealt with, it is necessary to carry out work which will eliminate or modify the incidence of the complaints.

The total number of visits and inspections made by the sanitary inspectors during the year was 11,534.

1,068 complaints were received and investigated.

Classification of these complaints is set out below :—

Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	133
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	342
Choked Drains	...	...	...	...	...	97
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	253
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	9
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	219
						<hr/> 1,068 <hr/>

A summary of the work of the inspectors is given in the following Tabular Statement :

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' ANNUAL TABULAR STATEMENTS

Visits

Public Health Act						
Houses (Primary)	...	...	...	...	...	437
Houses (Secondary)	...	...	...	...	...	1,089
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	179
Drainage—Main	...	...	...	...	...	659
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	137
Privies	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water Supply—Main	...	...	...	...	...	114
Wells	...	...	...	...	...	42
Others	...	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	296

Infectious Disease Disinfections	...	...	...	104
Dirty and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	77
Other Infested Premises	...	...	...	70
Animal Keeping (Domestic)	...	...	...	19
(pigs)	...	...	...	193
(Horses)	...	...	...	4
(Cattle)	...	...	...	7
Accumulations and Deposits	...	...	...	50
Dustbins	...	...	...	1,196
Pigbins	...	...	...	4
Refuse Destructor	...	...	...	130
Tips	...	...	...	30
Ponds, Pools and Watercourses	...	...	...	21
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	14
Public Amusement Halls	...	...	...	23
Schools	...	...	...	24
Workplaces	...	...	...	48
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	113
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	20
Sports Grounds	...	...	...	26
Meetings and Exhibitions	...	...	...	53
Rags and Bones Merchant	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	312
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act				9
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	360
Other Pests	...	...	...	32
Factories Act				
Factories with Power	...	...	...	75
Factories without Power	...	...	...	9
Building Operations	...	...	...	54
Outworkers	...	...	...	17
Food and Drugs Act				
Bakers	...	...	...	47
Butchers	...	...	...	87
Chemists	...	...	...	22
Fish—Fried	...	...	...	17
Fish—Wet	...	...	...	29
Greengrocer	...	...	...	95
Grocer	...	...	...	278
Ice Cream	...	...	...	77
Sweetshop	...	...	...	60
Wineshop/Beeroff	...	...	...	10
Bakehouse	...	...	...	69
Hotel/Restaurant/Canteen	...	...	...	187
Public House	...	...	...	30
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	2
Preserved Food Manufacturer	...	...	...	16
School Meals Centres	...	...	...	21

Public Hall (Catering)	10
Food Factory /Warehouse	19
Park Food Stalls	2
Meat Transport	3
Mobile Food Vehicles	16
Food Poisoning Investigations	40
Pig Carcasses Inspected	49
Other Food Inspected	179
Milk Retailers' Premises	75
Milk Transports	4
Milk (Other Premises)	9
Sampling (Food and Drugs Authority)	281
(Milk)	349
(Water)	104
(Ice Cream)	254
(Other Samples)	12
Visits to Laboratory	127
Housing Acts	
Inspection of Council Houses	1,705
Housing Consol. Regs.	230
Substandard Houses	911
Overcrowding	7
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	5
Shops Acts	5
Rag Flock Act	20
Pet Animals Act	4
Merchandise Marks Act	4
	<u>11,534</u>

NOTICES under the Public Health Act, 1936

	Informal	Formal					
		Public Health Act, 1936					
		S.39	S.45	S.75	S.93	S.138	Total
Outstanding 31/12/52 ...	58	1	—	6	8	—	73
Served during 1953 ...	286	4	5	161	46	3	505
	344	5	5	167	54	3	578
Outstanding 31/12/53 ...	53	1	1	27	6	—	88
Complied with during 1953	291	4	4	140	48	3	490

WORK REQUIRED BY NOTICES

(See table on opposite page)

Drainage

Drains unchoked or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	32
Cesspools cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	7

Water Supply

Provide internal supply or repair service pipes	17
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Roofs

Repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Rainwater conduits repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Walls —External repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Chimneys —Repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Doors —Repair or renew	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Windows —Repair or renew	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Ceilings and Internal Walls —Repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Floors —Repair or renew	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Staircases —Repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks —Repair or renew	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Washing Coppers —Repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Firegrates —Repair or renew	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Paving —Repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulation —Remove	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dustbins —Provide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	161

SHOPS AND OFFICES

The systematic survey of shop premises which it was hoped to carry out during the year did not materialise, due to limitation of staff.

It will, however, be realised that all food shops are subject to routine inspection under the Food and Drugs Act 1938. On these occasions attention is given by the inspectors to the provisions of S.38 Shops Act 1950.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

The Public Health control of camping falls into two categories :

- (a) Camping sites for a group of movable dwellings.
- (b) Licences granted to individual owners of movable dwellings.

There is one private site situated on the Birmingham Road, on which are placed six caravans.

In addition 23 Licences were in operation on 31st December, 1953. These are renewable annually on 1st January.

Some complaint and a certain amount of difficulty has arisen in connection with the stationing of unlicensed caravans on land in the Walmley District. Applications have been received from caravan owners after siting the caravan on this land, certain applications for licences have been refused, and at the end of the year the problem remains unresolved.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Borough, situated as it is on the fringe of a great industrial area has, in the past, been relatively free from gross atmospheric pollution. The siting and extension of factories in the Minworth area has, however, led to complaint in recent years, but everything possible is being done by the Department to minimize emissions from the factories concerned. Works carried out by certain of the managements have effected considerable improvement, but in at least one case the quantity and standard of smoke emission leaves much to be desired.

Two of the processes at this group of factories are registerable under the Alkali Works Regulation Act 1906. Consultation between this department and the Alkali Works Inspector continued throughout the year, complaints, however, continue to be received of noticeable sulphur emission.

The principal industries are situated in three areas :—

- (i) Mere Green
- (ii) Coleshill Road /Riland Road.
- (iii) Minworth.

The laundry chimney mentioned in my 1952 Report has continued to give cause for concern, and has necessitated regular observation.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Once again the swimming baths at Keepers Pool were well patronised. Since the installation of a small but efficient break point chlorination plant, the waters of Keepers Baths have been satisfactory.

The reduction of the numbers of bathers permitted at one time, and the resting of the pool to enable the plant to deal with the water efficiently has effected considerable improvement.

The Baths attendant keeps check upon the residual chlorine of the water, and periodic checks and samples are taken from time to time by this Department.

A copy of one of the bacteriological and chemical examinations made by the Public Analyst is given below :—

Bacteriological

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in two days at 37°C. per c.c.	9
Number of colonies capable of growth on Rebipel-Agar in two days at 37°C. per c.c.	0
Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in four days at 20°C. per c.c.	12
Presumptive <i>B. Coli</i> in 100 c.c.	Absent

Chemical

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0046
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0048
Chlorine in Chlorides	11.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	0.5
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in four hours	0.03
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	60
Nitrite	Absent
pH	7.2
Free Chlorine	0.0035
Appearance	Bright, few small particles

The above results show that this Baths water is in a safe condition for public use.

(Signed) BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY,

Public Analysts.

DISINFESTATION

During 1953, 77 visits were made to dirty and verminous houses, and disinfestation was carried out by the Department where necessary. The methods used varied according to the premises and type of infestation, and included :—

sulphur fumigation
D.D.T. and Gammexane vaporisers, and spraying
with standard proprietary insecticides ;
methods which have been found effective in use.

MOSQUITO CONTROL.

During 1953, 2,000 yards of ditches were cleaned and opened round Longmore and Powells Pool, and an area of swampy ground has been filled in.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provides a comprehensive service for the destruction of rats and mice.

By agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries test baiting of sewers was not carried out during the year, as, from past experience, it has been found unnecessary to carry out this work each year.

The two full-time rodent operatives employed made a total of 8,218 visits and inspections.

A summary of the work done in rodent destruction is set out opposite.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1953.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (including Business Premises) (4)	Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Note 1) ...	16	15,368	108	1,863	17,355
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 12 months ended 31st Dec. 1953 as a result of—					
(a) notification ; (b) survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ; (c) otherwise, e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose (Note 1).	(a) 2	198	3	29	232
	(b) 16	4,469	51	365	4,901
	(c) —	7	—	9	16
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats. (Note 1).	Major 2	0	2	6	10
	Minor 1	96	2	24	123
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice (Note 1) ...	1	0	0	2	3
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority (Note 1) ...	4	96	4	32	136
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment ...	—	2	—	1	3
(2) Structural works, i.e., proofing ...	—	3	—	3	6
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII. Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note 1 : With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.

FACTORIES

The number of factories registered under the Factories Acts 1937-52 is 178.

The sanitary accommodation provided at building sites leaves much to be desired. Considerable attention is being given to secure its improvement.

The general standard of hygiene maintained at factory premises is satisfactory, only minor infringements having been noted.

Factories are inspected as a matter of routine by the sanitary inspectors, and, in addition, infringements are brought to the notice of the Department by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The number of notices served during the year was seven, but it must be borne in mind that attention is often drawn verbally by the inspectors at the time of visit, where minor infringements are found.

Particulars of inspections are set out in the following Table.

PART 1. OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	9	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	75	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	38	54	4	—
Total ...	178	138	7	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	7	7	—	7	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	7	7	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	17	17	—	13	—

OUTWORKERS

14 persons were registered with the Local Authority as performing work of a registerable nature in their own homes.

The premises at which work is carried out are visited periodically, and no contraventions of the Acts were noted during the year.

SCHOOLS

During 1953 visits of inspection were made by sanitary inspectors to the schools, and the school meals kitchens kept under observation.

Sanitary accommodation at all schools was also regularly inspected and defects and lack of cleanliness attended to.

All schools within the Borough are provided with main water supplies and washing facilities, and are connected to the main drainage, and these facilities are, on the whole, reasonably satisfactory.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

This section empowers the Council, where the Medical Officer of Health certifies that the removal is necessary, to take steps to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises.

The Public Health Committee have empowered the Medical Officer of Health to carry out these requirements in urgent cases without further reference to them, and this facilitates action in these cases. No applications have been required during 1953.

SECTION D HOUSING

Housing Conditions

During 1953 the housing situation eased a little owing to the progress made by the Council in its building programme, 41 more houses were erected in 1953, compared with 1952, the bulk of the increase being corporation housing.

Dwellings handed over to the Corporation during 1953	298
Houses erected by private enterprise during 1953 ...	197

Total houses erected in 1953 ...	495
----------------------------------	-----

Council houses still under construction at 31/12/53 ...	248
---	-----

Private enterprise houses still under construction at 31/12/53	283
--	-----

Total houses still under construction at 31/12/53 ...	531
---	-----

Corporation Housing as at 31/12/53

Temporary houses completed	100
-----------------------------------	-----

Permanent dwellings completed	1,576
--------------------------------------	-------

Permanent dwellings under construction	248
---	-----

Tenders approved by Ministry of Housing and Local Government	—
--	---

Tenders awaiting approval of Ministry of Housing and Local Government	61
---	----

Private Enterprise Housing as at 31/12/53

Number of houses completed since 1/8/45	874
--	-----

Number of houses under construction	283
--	-----

Council Houses

Number of houses erected prior to 1945	609
---	-----

Number of houses erected 1945–53	1,576
---	-------

Number of temporary dwellings	100
--------------------------------------	-----

Number of additional units (flat conversions)	6
--	---

Total houses erected by the Council to 31/12/53 ...	2,291
---	-------

Number of applicants for houses on Council list at 30/4/53	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,342
Number of applicants for bungalows on Council list at 30/4/53	...	...	...	...	...	...	356
							<hr/>
Total number of applicants for re-housing as at 30/4/53							1,698
							<hr/>
Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/53						...	15,669

Year	Inhabited Houses Mid-year	Population Mid-year	Persons per Occupied House
1947	13,618	45,280	3.325
1948	13,887	46,190	3.326
1949	14,155	46,580	3.291
1950	14,391	47,440	3.296
1951	14,871	47,790	3.214
1952	15,016	48,180	3.209
1953	15,446	48,670	3.151

Housing Inspection

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 818
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 3,463
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) where inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... 220
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 230
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 22
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 388
5. Remedy of defects during the year, without service of formal notices—
 - Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence ... 291
6. Action under Statutory powers during the year :
 - (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :

	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices served requiring repairs	...	None
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices —		
	(a) By owners	... ..	None
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...		None
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—		
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	219
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
	(a) By Owners	... ..	163
	(b) By Local Authority in default	... ..	36
7.	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :		
	(i) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	... ..	7
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	2
8.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.		
	(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	... ..	None
9.	Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936 :		
	(i) Number of houses included in Clearance areas	... ..	5
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure	... ..	None

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The quality of food is adversely affected by chemical and bacteriological contamination. Excess preservatives, harmful chemical substances and dilution or other adulteration of the food is supervised by routine samples submitted to the Borough Analyst. Bacteriological contamination occurs in a variety of ways, particularly by means of mishandling or unsuitable storage. Food originally clean or pure is rendered harmful by unhygienic practices.

Food hygiene instruction and advice as given by this Department attempts to minimise risks which occur this way.

Since the passing of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, and more particularly since the rise in numbers of food poisoning outbreaks, a great deal more attention has been paid to the inspection and supervision of food premises. Every effort is made to bring registers of food premises inspection up to date. With the limited staff available it is extremely difficult to complete work which is considered absolutely essential.

Improvement of Food Premises

Premises cleansed or redecorated	...	...	...	46
Washing facilities provided or improved	...	...	...	14
Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	...	...	...	1
Food storage accommodation improved	...	...	...	13
Equipment cleansed or improved	...	...	...	18
Structural repairs	...	...	...	14
Refuse storage improved	...	...	...	17
Fly nuisance abated	...	...	...	1
Drainage improved	...	...	...	3
Mobile Food Vans cleansed or improved	...	...	...	4
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	3
				<hr/> 134 <hr/>

Milk Supply

Dairies and Milk Shops

The number of Milk Distributors registered in the Borough is as follows :—

Wholesale and Retail Distributors	...	...	...	12
Other Retail Distributors resident in the Borough	...	...	...	10
Retail Distributors resident outside the Borough...	...	...	...	8
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk only	...	...	...	23

The number of registered premises in the Borough is as under :

Pasteuriser's Establishment	...	...	...	...	1
Bottled Milk Depots	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	...	4

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations

The following licences were granted :

Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk—

Pasteuriser's Licence	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licences				
(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	26
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	37
Supplementary Licences				
(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	18
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	15

Raw Milk

Dealers' Licences				
(a) T.T.	15
(b) Accredited	1
Supplementary Licences				
(a) T.T.	16

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Control and Distribution of Milk

Since 1st October, 1949, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has exercised control over the production of milk and the Local Authority has been responsible only for the supervision of treatment and distribution of milk.

This latter supervision is exercised by the inspection of premises, testing of plant, and frequent sampling of milk in the process of distribution to the customer.

During the year 88 inspections were made for the purpose and 239 samples were taken. Details of sampling and results are shown in the following table :—

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Results of Tests							
		Phosphatase		Methylene Blue		Turbidity		T.B.	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Neg.	Pos.
Pasteurised ...	196	193	3	186	10	—	—	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised	13	12	1	13	—	—	—	1	—
T.T. Raw ...	10	—	—	7	3	—	—	1	—
Sterilised ...	11	—	—	11	—	11	—	—	—
Accredited ...	4	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—
Ungraded ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	62	—
Total ...	239	205	4	218	21	11	—	65	—

Heat Treatment

On the 1st November, 1952, the Borough became part of a Specified Area in which it was obligatory that all milk sold should be of "special designation" standard, i.e.,

Pasteurised,
Sterilised,
Tuberculin Tested, or
Accredited.

It is permissible to sell Accredited milk only until 1954, after which time it will be necessary for the milk to conform to one of the better designation standards.

The Pasteuriser's premises previously licensed was relicensed for the current year and samples taken direct from the plant have continued to be satisfactory. This plant is operated on the Holder principle. Both T.T. and ungraded milk are pasteurised, bottled and distributed from this Dairy.

Ice Cream

There are 152 premises in the Borough registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream. These are :—

- 1 registered for manufacture only.
- 16 registered for manufacture and sale.
- 135 registered for sale only.

Of those registered for manufacture or manufacture and sale, only three are at present manufacturing. Of these, one is producing a heat treated article, and two others are producing a complete cold mix article.

A high proportion of those registered for sale handle only a pre-packed article, and supplies, in the main, come from twelve different manufacturers. There is a preference amongst the small shopkeepers for pre-packed ice cream on the grounds of ease of handling, and this greatly assists in the hygienic control of this commodity.

Attention is again drawn to the loophole which exists in current legislation by the exclusion of cafes, restaurants, hotels, clubs, etc., from the registration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act. Some form of supplementary licence controlling street traders who enter the Borough from outside to sell their commodity is also well worthy of consideration. This particularly applies in a Town of this nature, where the Park forms a major attraction to holiday-makers and visitors, with its consequent attraction for visiting ice cream vendors.

210 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, and the results are as shown in the following table. This is a substantial increase on the number of

samples taken in 1952. The total of unsatisfactory samples is low, but nevertheless shows the necessity for constant vigilance in the supervision of this product.

For the purpose of testing, the methylene blue reduction test, recommended by the Public Health Laboratory service is used, and Grade 1 and 2 are normally considered as satisfactory, Grade 3 doubtful, and Grade 4 unsatisfactory.

Type	Number taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
From Manufacturers—Cold Mix...	2	1	1	—	—
From Manufacturers—Hot Mix ...	30	24	5	1	—
From Retailers	178	152	17	5	4
Total ...	210	177	23	6	4

During the same period 16 samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis, all of which were reported genuine.

INSPECTION OF MEAT

The responsibility for the inspection of carcasses of animals slaughtered for human food, rested with the Birmingham City Authority under the Ministry of Food scheme for centralised slaughter, and there was no slaughterhouse in use in the Borough of Sutton Coldfield under this scheme.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

Arising from the inspection of food in retail shops and the operation of a voluntary surrender scheme in the Borough the following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered for destruction.

	lbs.	Number of tins.
Raw Meat	1,752	
Bacon	15	
Sausage and Meat Products	62	
Fish	28	
Fats	1	
Cheese	142	
Fresh Fruit	50	
Dried Fruit	52	
Flour and Cereals	179	
Preserves	15	
Sweet Confectionery	10	
Other Foods	377	
Tinned Foods	3,041	3,734
Total ...	5,724 lbs.	

(2 tons, 11 cwt., 12 lbs.)

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Analyses of samples of food and drugs taken under the Food and Drugs Act, are carried out by the Public Analysts for the Borough, Messrs. Bostock Hill & Rigby, who carry out chemical examination of food, water, drugs, etc., as required by the Department.

The Public Health Laboratory Service (Director, Dr. B. R. Sandiford) is in Great Charles Street, Birmingham, and foods are submitted to this laboratory as necessary. The service has proved extremely valuable in connection with the examination of milks, ice cream, water, and food submitted for suspected food poisoning organisms. In all, 650 samples and specimens were submitted during the year for bacteriological and microscopical examination, as detailed below :—

Milk ...	...	...	...	...	304
Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	210
Water ...	...	...	...	...	80
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	17
Dysentery investigations	...	...	...	...	39

Food Poisoning

There have been no cases of food poisoning notified during the year, nevertheless, it is known that on several occasions a number of persons suffered from food poisoning after attending functions. I, therefore, appeal again to members of the public to report attacks of food poisoning to their doctor or to the Public Health Department immediately, so that food handlers who are not too particular in their methods can be traced and dealt with.

Food and Drugs Adulteration

193 samples of food and drugs were taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1938, by the inspectors, and forwarded to the Public Analyst for report. The following tables give details of samples taken, and the results of the analyses, with details of samples found to be unsatisfactory.

Samples of				Formal	Informal	Total	Genuine	Adul- terated
FOOD								
Almonds, Ground	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Beef Suet	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1
Blanc Mange Powder	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Brawn	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Butter Sweets	...	...	...	—	5	5	2	3
Cake Flour	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Cocktail (Tomato)	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Cordial (Orange)	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1
Crab Paste	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Cream	...	...	...	—	5	5	5	—
Cream Buns	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Crush (Orange)	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Currants	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Custard Powder	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Dripping	...	...	...	—	4	4	4	—
Fish Paste	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Gelatine	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Honey	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Ice Cream	...	...	...	—	16	16	16	—
Jams	...	...	...	—	3	3	3	—
Jellies	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1
Ketchup (Tomato)	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Lard	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Marmalade	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Meat Paste	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Milk	...	...	...	58	2	60	56	4
Minced Chicken	...	...	...	—	2	2	—	2
Mincemeat	...	...	...	1	—	1	1	—
Pepper Flavoured Compound	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Potato Crisps (Cheese Flavoured)	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Potted Beef	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Prawn, Dressed	...	...	...	1	1	2	—	2
Sauces	...	...	...	—	3	3	2	1
Salad Cream	...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Sausage, Pork	...	...	...	—	4	4	3	1
Self Raising Flour	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Squash, Orange	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	—	5	5	5	—
Whiskey	...	...	...	5	1	6	6	—
White Pepper	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—
Yeast	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1

DRUGS, etc.								
Aspirin Tablets ...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—	
Balsam of Aniseed ...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	
Bicarbonate of Soda B.P. ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Bronchial Mixture ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Calamine Lotion ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Cascara Sagrada ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Castor Oil ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Codeine Tablets ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Cough Cure ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Digestive Tablets ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Elixir ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Embrocation ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Express Powder ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Family Doctor ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Glycerine ...	...	...	1	4	5	3	2	
Glycerine of Thymol ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Glycerine Lemon Honey and Ipecac ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Glycerine Lemon and Ipecac ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Indian Brandee ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Lanolin ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Liquid Paraffin ...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—	
Lobelline ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Parrishes Food ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Peppermint ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Tea Seed Oil ...	...	...	—	2	2	2	—	
Vitagrains ...	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	
Vit. B.1. Tablets ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Zinc and Castor Oil Cream ...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	
Total ...				67	126	193	172	21

Mr. F. G. D. Chalmers, in his comments on the year's work, stated :—

“The proportion of unsatisfactory samples is practically the same as in the previous year, and this proportion is above the average.

“The commonest source of unsatisfactory samples is usually milk, but this year only four of the sixty samples of milk submitted were unsatisfactory. Two of these were below standard, one contained portions of a small snail, and one was tainted with copper.

“As in previous years, a wide variety of miscellaneous foods was submitted and the unsatisfactory samples covered a similarly wide range, the most notable being samples of minced chicken found to contain 30% excess water, but, as similar samples were already being dealt with by a neighbouring authority, no further action was taken. As a matter of interest, the action taken by the neighbouring authority resulted in the defendant being fined £25 and costs.

“A similar case was that of samples of dressed prawn which also appeared to contain excess water. The Analyst was asked to take the matter up with the manufacturers, who gave an assurance that no water was added in the course of manufacture, and promised to forward samples taken at defined stages of production and manufacture for independent check. So far, these samples have not been received.”

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AND FOUND TO BE IRREGULAR

No.	Nature of Sample	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
485	Dressed Prawn ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—contained 17.1% protein.	Taken up with manufacturers' Analyst to carry out tests.
499	Table Jelly ...	F.	Deficient 5% sugars.	Insufficient to warrant proceedings.
508	Butterscotch ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—deficient 5% butter fat.	No formal sample obtainable.
511	Milk ...	F.	Unsatisfactory.	Freezing point genuine.
529	Glycerine ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—not B.P. quality.	Formal sample taken satisfactory.
532	Pork Sausage ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—sulph dioxide not disclosed.	Vendor cautioned.
535	Dressed Prawn ...	F.	See 485.	Taken up with manufacturer.
558	Milk ...	F.	Unsatisfactory—deficient of 1.7% fat.	Freezing point genuine.
567	Dried Yeast ...	I.	Labelling of Food Order not complied with.	Taken up with Analyst—reported genuine.
597	Milk ...	I.	Contained portions of small snail.	Vendor cautioned.
600	Balsam of Aniseed ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—excess acid acet. dil.	Formal sample submitted 1954 and reported genuine.
601	Vitagrains ...	I.	Label unsatisfactory.	This matter was referred to Ministry of Food by the Analyst. Conservative view given.
608	Real Minced Chicken	I.	Unsatisfactory—contained not more than 70% minced chicken.	See 623.
616	Fruit Sauce ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—excess copper.	No formal sample obtainable—under review.
619	Butter Crunch ...	I.	Unsatisfactory—deficient 30% butter fat.	No formal sample obtainable. Sample of similar commodity of same firm submitted 1954 and reported genuine.

623	Real Minced Chicken		I.	Unsatisfactory—contained not more than 70% chicken.	Prosecution taken by neighbouring Authority.
629	Glycerin B.P.	...	I.	Unsatisfactory—5% water content.	No formal sample obtainable—under review.
631	Butter Crunch	...	I.	Unsatisfactory—deficient 30% butter fat.	No formal sample obtainable. Sample of similar commodity of same firm submitted 1954 reported genuine.
632	Orange Cordial	...	I.	Unsatisfactory—No name or address of manufacturer or trademark—excess copper.	Taken up with manufacturer.
658	Beef Suet	...	I.	Unsatisfactory—excess free fatty acids.	Vendor warned.
661	Milk	...	I.	Copper taint.	Source of supply investigated.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Although under the National Health Service Act the infectious disease hospitals in the country passed to the Regional Hospital Board, nevertheless, the control and prevention of infectious diseases still remain the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year everything has been done to investigate cases of infectious disease, to trace contacts and take steps to prevent further spread. By so doing it is hoped that the incidence of infectious diseases in the town has been kept as low as possible.

Deaths

During the year there were no deaths from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid and Paratyphoid and Dysentery.

Diphtheria

Once again there have been no cases of diphtheria in the Borough during the year. The absence of the disease from the yearly returns coincides with the immunising campaign started twenty-odd years ago. Whether the disease will remain dormant or be eliminated remains to be seen but it is necessary to press on with the immunisation of all children 0-14 years of age in case the disease returns with renewed virulence.

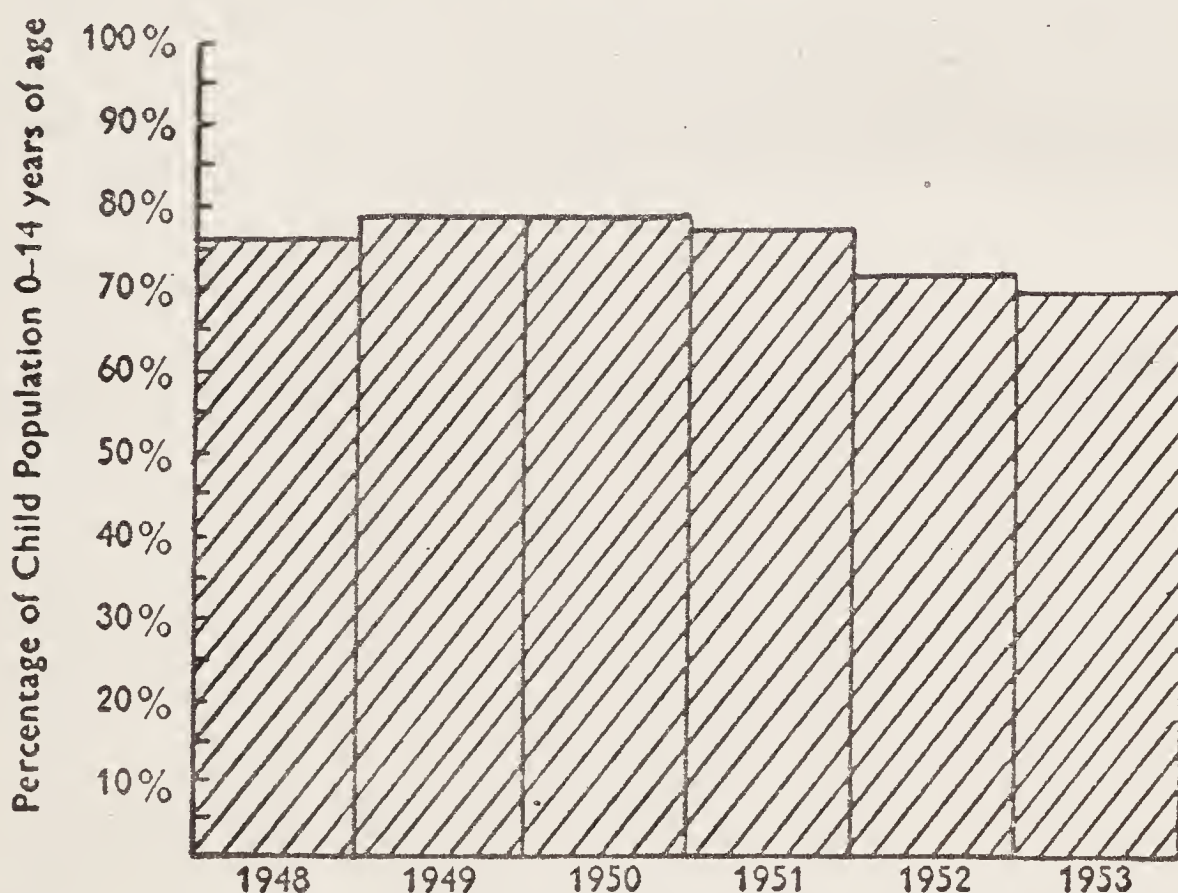
During 1953, 499 children completed primary courses of immunisation, 448 in the age-group 0-4 years and 51 in the age-group 5-14 years.

I am pleased to report that at the end of 1953 71% of the child population 0-14 years of age had been immunised.

The estimate of child population 0-14 years of age on which the above percentage is calculated, is now no longer supplied by the Registrar-General and therefore the percentage has been calculated on a local estimate.

Diphtheria Immunisation Complete Courses of Inoculation for the Past Six Years

GRAPH No. 2



Scarlet Fever

The number of cases notified during the year showed an increase on 1952, a total of 108 cases being registered. This disease has been of a mild type in recent years and the admission of cases to hospital has not been encouraged. There were no deaths during 1953.

Whooping Cough

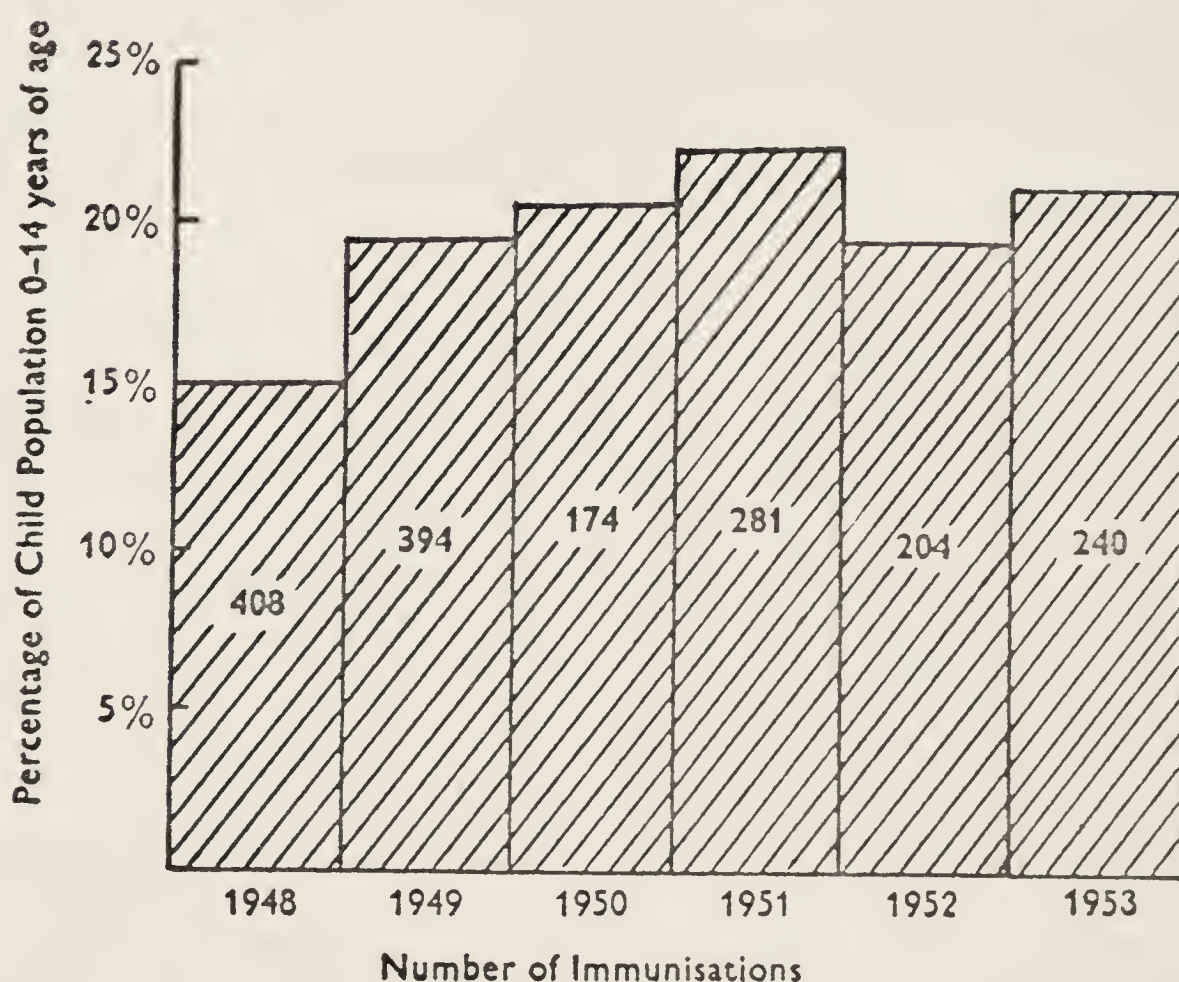
Like many other infectious diseases, whooping cough has its rise and fall in severity of symptoms. At the moment we seem to be in a period of low virulence type disease.

During this year 261 cases of whooping cough were notified, an increase of 155 cases as compared with 1952, and no death occurred. 240 children were immunised during the year as against 204 in 1952.

Since commencing whooping cough immunisation in 1942, I am pleased to report that 21% of the child population 0-14 years of age have now been immunised.

Whooping Cough Immunisation Number and Percentage of Cases Inoculated for the Past Six Years

GRAPH No. 3



Pneumonia

There was a slight increase in the cases of pneumonia notified during the year, there being 41 as compared with 40 for 1952, and 18 deaths occurred. Of these nine occurred in the age-group 65 years and over.

Poliomyelitis

Only a few sporadic cases were notified during the year and I am pleased to report that only four cases occurred, one paralytic and three non-paralytic.

It is hoped that sooner or later an immunising scheme against this disease will be available so that the genuine dread that parents have of their children contracting poliomyelitis can be eliminated.

Dysentery

Six cases of dysentery were notified during the year, three due to *Shigella Sonnei*, one to *Shigella Flexneri W* and in two cases no pathogens were found to confirm the diagnosis.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid

One case of paratyphoid fever was notified in 1953. The patient concerned was in a local hospital for three weeks, and indeed had left hospital and was on holiday in Wales when it was decided, following on reports from bacteriological investigation carried out in hospital, that the case was one of Para-typhoid A Fever. The case was then notified to the Public Health Department, and on following up the case on holiday the patient's stools were found to be free from pathogenic organisms.

Such delay in notification and investigation can lead to the spread of diseases like Para-typhoid fever, and I feel that the Medical Officer of Health should be consulted in such cases much earlier than appears to be the normal practice nowadays. I think closer liaison should be maintained between the hospitals and the Medical Officer of Health in these matters.

Measles

During the year there were 438 cases of measles notified in the Borough, the largest proportion, namely 232, being in the age group 5-10 years. 292 cases occurred in the first quarter of the year.

Of course many cases are not notified and if the children concerned are not too ill they are allowed up and about, and even sent to school, and spread the disease amongst friends in the early infectious period, thereby much time off school and permanent damage to health being caused.

Tuberculosis

From 1948-1950 there was a sharp increase in the number of cases notified. In 1951 there was a sharp drop but since then there has been a small but steady climb again in the number notified.

The number of new cases of respiratory Tuberculosis notified this year was 28 as against 23 in 1952, and six cases of non-respiratory were notified as against nine in 1952, making a total of 34 cases as against 32 for last year.

During the year three deaths occurred from respiratory Tuberculosis and two from non-respiratory Tuberculosis as compared with six and one respectively for 1952.

Relatively, Sutton Coldfield has a very small number on the Tuberculosis Register but, nevertheless, this does not mean that we should be complacent about it.

Every help should be given to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in their housing applications, because good housing conditions and general living conditions have a very marked effect on the incidence and outcome of this disease.

I would like to thank the Housing Committee for their help in providing housing for patients on the Tuberculosis Register. I hope that they will continue to give considerable priority to such cases.

The occupational therapy scheme which comes under the control of the Area Health Committee is progressing very favourably and no Tuberculosis patient need feel that he cannot get something to occupy his mind and interests.

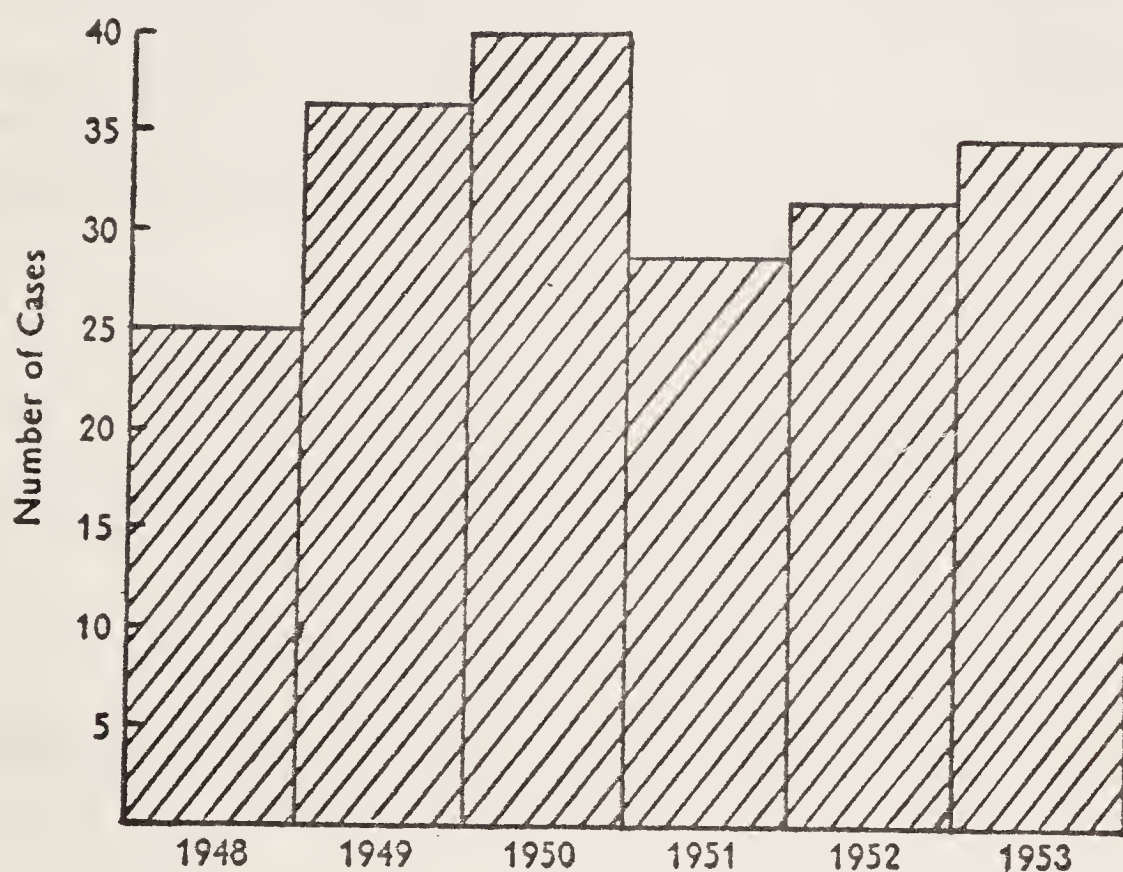
B.C.G. Vaccination was received by 11 children in 1953. No doubt in the next few years a very much larger number of children will be done, including the school children, and I trust this will help to further decrease the numbers on the Tuberculosis Register in this area.

Tuberculosis New Cases and Mortality During 1953

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	—	7	—	—	—	—	1	—
25—35 ...	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	—
35—45 ...	2	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	13	15	2	4	3	—	2	—

Tuberculosis
Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
New Cases for the Past Six Years

GRAPH No. 4



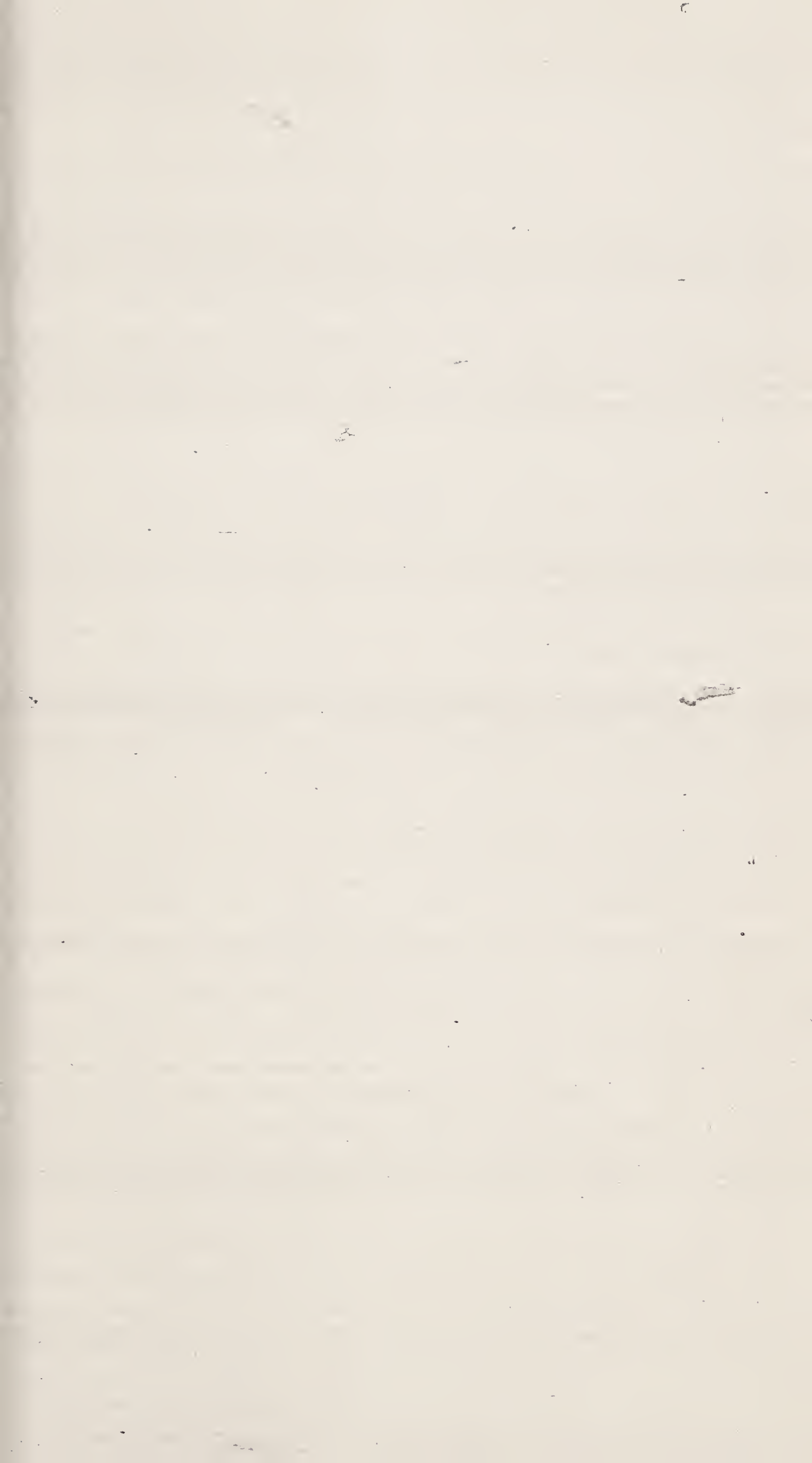
Quarterly Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Totals
Scarlet Fever	44	36	7	21	108
Whooping Cough	37	75	119	30	261
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	—	—	—	3	3
„ Non-Paralytic	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	299	127	12	—	438
Pneumonia	23	5	5	8	41
Dysentery	—	4	1	1	6
Erysipelas	3	2	—	—	5
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1	—	5
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	6	12	5	28
„ Non-Respiratory	3	—	—	3	6
Totals ...	419	256	158	71	904

Notifiable Diseases

Analysis of Deaths

Diseases	CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR													DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR												
	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	108	—	1	3	1	4	68	22	2	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	261	13	20	32	30	35	122	3	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Non-Paralytic ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	438	6	35	49	49	59	232	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	41	—	—	3	—	1	2	2	2	3	6	13	9	18	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	5	9
Dysentery ...	6	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	28	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	9	6	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
" Non-Respiratory ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	904	19	57	87	80	100	429	34	11	28	18	30	11	23	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	6	10	—



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

The number of food premises in the Borough by type of business:-

BAKERS SEOPS	16
BUTCHERS SHOPS	38
CHEMISTS SEOPS	22
FISH - fried fish shops	6
FISH - wet fish shops	11
GREENGROCERS SHOPS	39
GROCERS SHOPS	114
ICE CREAM SHOPS	4
SWEETSHOPS	33
WINE SHOP/BEER OFF	12
BAKEHOUSES	16
HOTEL/RESTAURANT/CANTEEN	51
PUBLIC HOUSES	31
PRESERVED FOOD MANUFACTURERS	5
SCHOOL MEALS CENTRES	8
PUBLIC HALLS	12
FOOD FACTORY/WAREHOUSES	<u>9</u>
Total:-	<u><u>427</u></u>

The number of premises registered under S.14 in the Borough is:-

Ice Cream 152.

Preserved Food 49.